

Message Text

SECRET

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14

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
----- 118490

P 211010Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3169

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 JIDDA 8377

EXDIS

DEPT PLS PASS SECDEF, OASD/ISA/SA/DSAA, USMTM DHAHRAN

FROM ATHERTON

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, MASS, SA, US

SUBJECT: SAUDI URGENT ARMS REQUIREMENTS

REF: A. JIDDA 7979 B. JIDDA 8376

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF A LETTER I SUBMITTED TO SAG
MINISTER OF DEFENSE PRINCE SULTAN DURING OUR DEC 20
MEETING (REF B), CONFIRMING MILITARY SUPPLY DECISIONS
I WAS AUTHORIZED TO CONVEY.

2. "YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESS:

" I AM HAPPY TO BEAR WITH ME MY GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE
TO YOUR LETTER OF SEPTEMBER 17. I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT
THE POINTS YOU HAVE MADE IN YOUR COMMUNICATIONS
TO SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY KISSINGER, AND TO
AMBASSADOR JAMES AKINS, HAVE RECIEVED THE MOST
CAREFUL AND SYMPATHETIC ATTENTION AT THE HIGHEST
LEVELS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND THE DEPART-
MENT OF DEFENSE. AS YOU HAVE BEEN INFORMED BY
AMBASSADOR AKINS, THE DEFINITION OF SPECIFIC DE-
LIVERY DATES FOR MILITARY EQUIPMENT ON THE BASIS
OF THE GENERALDECISIONS CONVEYED BY SECRETARY
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KISSINGER IN TAIF INVOLVED COMPLICATED LOGISTICAL

PROBLEMS WITH RESPECT TO PRODUCTION SCHEDULES AND
SUPPLY COMMITMENTS AT HOME AND ABROAD.

"I HAVE THE HONOR TO INFORM YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESS
THAT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT IS PREPARED TO
MOVE RAPIDLY FORWARD TO SUPPORT THE SAUDI ARABIAN
ARMY MODERNIZATION PROGRAM.

"THE UNITED STATES IS PREPARED TO RESPOND TO
THE REQUEST MADE BY YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESS IN SUCH A
WAY AS TO PROVIDE TO SAUDI ARABIA THE MEANS TO
ACHIEVE A LIMITED BUT EFFECTIVE MECHANIZED CAPABILITY
BY MID-CALENDAR YEAR 1977, AND A FULLY OPERATIONAL
FORCE OF TWO MECHANIZED BRIGADES BY THE END OF
CALENDAR YEAR 1978. OUR RESPONSE DOES NOT FULLY
MEET THE REQUEST IN YOUR LETTER OF SEPTEMBER 17
WHICH ASKED THAT DELIVERIES OF ALL EQUIPMENT ON
YOUR LIST OF JUNE 15 BE DELIVERED WITHIN ONE YEAR.
IT IS IMPORTANT TO NOTE, HOWEVER, THAT THE DE-
LIVERIES WE ARE PROPOSING GIVE SAUDI ARABIA PRIORITY
FROM THE PRODUCTION LINES OF UNCOMMITTED EQUIPMENT.
WE HAVE BEEN ABLE, MOREOVER, TO IMPROVE DELIVERY
TIMING IN KEY AREAS BY THE EARLY DIVERSION OF
EQUIPMENT INCLUDING SOME M60A1 TANKS AND M113
ARMORED PERSONNEL CARRIERS. THIS WILL ALLOW THE
INITIATION OF TRAINING NEXT YEAR.

"THERE ARE A NUMBER OF ASSUMPTIONS UPON WHICH
OUR PROPOSAL IS BASED. THESE ARE:

"(1) SAUDI ARABIA WILL RECEIVE PRIORITY ON
UNCOMMITTED PRODUCTION.

"(2) THE GOVERNMENT OF SAUDI ARABIA WILL
PROVIDE ADEQUATE NUMBERS OF QUALIFIED PERSONNEL
FOR TRAINING.

"(3) CONSIDERABLE TECHNICAL TRAINING OF
SAUDI ARABIAN ARMY PERSONNEL WILL BE CONDUCTED
IN THE CONTINENTAL UNITED STATES (CONUS). (THESE
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PERSONNEL WILL REQUIRE AN AVERAGE OF 23 WEEKS EACH
OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE TRAINING, WHICH WILL ALSO BE
PROVIDED IN CONUS.)

"(4) THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE WILL COORDINATE
CLOSELY WITH THE MILITARY TRAINING MISSION (USMTM)
AND THE SAUDI ORDNANCE CORPS PROGRAM (SOC) ON
IN-COUNTRY OPERATOR AND OPERATOR MAINTENANCE

TRAINING, AND WILL PROVIDE A FAIRLY LARGE NUMBER OF INTERPRETERS. A MAJOR EFFORT TO INSURE ADEQUATE SOCP SUPPORT AND HOUSING SHOULD BE MADE.

"(5) THE SAUDI ORDNANCE COROPS PROGRAM WILL BE EXPANDED AS REQUIRED TO PROVIDE MAINTENANCE AND SUPPLY SUPPORT ASSISTANCE.

"(6) SUPPLY SUPPORT AGREEMENTS WILL BE EXPANDED TO TAKE CARE OF THE NEW EQUIPMENT.

"(7) THE SAUDI ARABIAN GOVERNMENT WILL PROVIDE A SUPPORT BASE AND HOUSING FOR MILITARY TRAINING TEAMS (MTTS) AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FIELD TEAMS (TAFTS) THAT WILL PROVIDE THE INITIAL IN-COUNTRY TRAINING. THE INTRODUCTION OF TAFTS/MTTS WILL REQUIRE SIGNING OF FMS CASES AAA AND AAB FOR USMTM EXPANSION AND PROVISION OF HOUSING.

"(8) THE SAG WILL SIGN A LOI (LETTER OF INTENT) FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF THE EQUIPMENT OFFERED BY JANUARY 15, 1976. IT WILL ACCEPT THE LETTERS OF OFFER AND ACCEPTANCE (LOA) WITHIN 90 DAYS AFTER DELIVERY OF UNSIGNED LOAS. (THE PURPOSE OF THE LETTER OF INTENT IS TO INSURE THAT SAUDI ARABIA MAINTAINS ITS PRESENT FIRST PLACE IN LINE FOR UNCOMMITTED PRODUCTION. WITHOUT SIGNED AND ACCEPTED LETTERS OF INTENT, ANOTHER COUNTRY COULD COME IN WITH A FIRM ORDER AND THEREBY ALTER THE SAUDI PREFERENTIAL POSITION.)

"THE ATTACHED CHART WILL SHOW IN OUTLINE FORM OUR PROPOSED DELIVERY DATES. IT SHOULD BE NOTED IN SECRET

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PARTICULAR THAT IT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT EQUIPMENT ITEMS THAT ARE BEING DELIVERED EARLY, AND THAT IN-COUNTRY TRAINING WILL, THEREFORE, BE POSSIBLE USING THIS EQUIPMENT. THE ITEMS MARKED FOR EARLY DELIVERY INCLUDE:

"21 M60A1 TANKS

"1 M60 AVLB

"1 M88A1 RECOVERY VEHICLE

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED SECDEF.

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
----- 118497

P 211010Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3170

S E C R E T SECTION 2 OF 2 JIDDA 8377

EXDIS

"(3) M88A1 RECOVERY VEHICLE...1 IN THE THIRD
QUARTER OF CALENDAR YEAR 1977, WITH THE REMAINING
DELIVERIES TO BEGIN IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF CALENDAR
YEAR 1978, AT THE RATES OF 1 AND 2 PER MONTH UP TO
A TOTAL OF 18.

"(4) M113 ARMORED PERSONNEL CARRIERS...8
WILL BE DELIVERED IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF CALENDAR
YEAR 1977, WITH DELIVERIES OF THE REMAINDER TO
BEGIN IN THE THIRD QUARTER OF CALENDAR YEAR 1977
UP TO A TOTAL OF 1,104 VEHICLES.

"(5) M578 LIGHT RECOVERY VEHICLES...DELIVERIES
TO BEGIN IN THE THIRD QUARTER OF CALENDAR YEAR 1977
AT A RATE OF 5 PER MONTH UP TO A TOTAL OF 52.

"(6) 155 MM SELF-PROPELLED HOWITZERS...24
WILL BE INITIALLY PROVIDED ON A LOAN BASIS TO BE
FOLLOWED BY DELIVERY OF 43 (ALREADY ORDERED) IN
SEPTEMBER 1977, AND THE DELIVERY OF THE PROPOSED
ORDER OF 50 MORE TO BEGIN THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1978.

"(7) TOW...THE REMAINING 102 LAUNCHERS TO
BE DELIVERED STARTING IN THIRD QUARTER CALENDAR
YEAR 1977 AT RATE OF 7 PER MONTH; THE REMAINING
2,540 MILLILES TO BE DELIVERED BEGINNING IN FOURTH
QUARTER CALENDAR YEAR 1976 AT 50 PER MONTH,
INCREASING TO 200 PER MONTH IN THIRD QUARTER

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CALENDAR YEAR 1977, AND 400 PER MONTH IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF CALENDAR YEAR 1978.

"(8) DRAGON...EARLY DELIVERY OF 20 TRACKERS AND 400 LAUNCHERS TO BE MADE IN THE THIRD AND FOURTH QUARTERS OF CALENDAR YEAR 1977. DELIVERY OF THE REMAINDER WILL START IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF CALENDAR YEAR 1978, AT A RATE OF 16 TRACKERS AND 320 MISSILES PER MONTH, UP TO A TOTAL OF 213 TRACKERS AND 4,260 MISSILES.

"(9) REDEYE...DELIVERIES TO BEGIN THE FIRST QUARTER OF CALENDAR YEAR 1978 UP TO A TOTAL OF 300 MISSILES.

"(10) LAW...DELIVERIES OF 5,000 UNITS TO BE MADE IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF CALENDAR YEAR 1976.

"(11) 12 BULLDOZERS, 24 TRK WRECKER 5T (M816) AND 18 BULLDOZER BLADE KITS (XM111) ALL TO BE DELIVERED THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1977.

"WE ARE PREPARING A CAREFUL AND DETAILED PRESENTATION ON TRAINING AND MILITARY DELIVERIES, WHICH INDICATES CLEARLY TO US THAT THE UNITED STATE GOVERNMENT AND THE SAUDI ARABIAN GOVERNMENT WILL NEED TO COOPERATE INTENSIVELY AND FULLY ON TRAINING TO MEET THIS DELIVERY SCHEDULE. WE PROPOSE THAT A BRIEFING TEAM OF DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE EXPERTS COME TO SAUDI ARABIA IN EARLY JANUARY OF 1976 TO EXPLAIN THIS MANNER IN WHICH MANPOWER AND TRAINING MUST BE COORDINATED WITH EQUIPMENT DELIVERIES. THE TEAM WOULD BRING WITH THEM UNSIGNED LETTERS OF OFFER AND ACCEPTANCE FOR ALL EQUIPMENT ITEMS. WE HOPE YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESS WILL APPROVE THE SENDING OF THIS TEAM.

"WITH ALL GOOD WISHES.

SINCERELY,
ALFRED L. ATHERTON, JR."
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3. COPY OF CHART REFERRED TO IN LETTER BEING HAND-CARRIED TO WASHINGTON BY MR. HOENIG FOR DOD AND COPY BEING POUCHED TO DEPARTMENT C/O NEA/ARP AND PM/SAS.
HORAN

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED SECDEF.

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